

### REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the Office Action of May 12, 2006 is respectfully requested.

As rejected claims 5, 7 and 8 have now been canceled without prejudice, only allowed claims remain for consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, the present application should now be in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

Minor formal changes have been made to the specification and abstract to improve the form of the application as a whole.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Takuji HAYAMA et al.

By: 

Nils E. Pedersen  
Registration No. 33,145  
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krp  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
August 14, 2006